

**REMARKS**

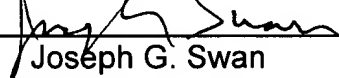
Claims 7, 8, 10 and 27 remain pending in the application, with claim 7 being the independent claim. Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the continued indication that claims 7, 8, 10 and 27 are allowed. Although Applicant continues to disagree with the rejections of the other claims, such claims have been canceled above in order to obtain early allowance of this case. Accordingly, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that have not been accounted for in this paper or the accompanying papers, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 12-2252. If an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is required for the filing of this paper and is not accounted for in this paper or the accompanying papers, such an extension is requested and the fee (or any underpayment thereof) should also be charged to Deposit Account No. 12-2252. A duplicate copy of this page is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

**MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP**

Dated: December 20, 2004

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph G. Swan  
Registration No. 41,338

**MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP**  
11377 West Olympic Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90064  
Telephone: (310) 312-2000  
Facsimile: (310) 312-3100